

HUNTING IN AFRICA.

The Sport Is Full of Exciting Situations and Incidents.

Native in Pursuit of an Ostrich Is Stalked by Lions—Escapes by Accidental Discharge of Gun and Unusual Garb

For the first time in nearly 11 years William F. Fagin, of Chicago, has written to a member of his family. Fagin has been a wanderer on the face of the earth for the last ten years and has lived and worked in every continent except Europe and North America.

He came into his money the day he became 21, and immediately made tracks for parts unknown. Reports of him have always come accidentally from those who have happened to meet him. He has written but one letter since he left home, and that was received within a fortnight by his married sister, Mrs. J. B. Thomas, of Boulder, Col.

It begins without preface or explanation, as if he had been a regular correspondent, and is as follows: "Damaraland, Africa, Nov. 4, 1901.—Dear Ellen: It was in the expectation of finding ostrich feathers that I visited this great thirst-land. I have myself only succeeded in killing two of the birds, though my followers have done better—and of course have brought in their kills to me. I do not think any sportsman or traveler will differ from me when I state that there is no game so difficult to stalk as is this gigantic member of the feathered tribe. Its speed is marvelous; when going at its best pace you can no more distinguish the movement of its legs than you can the spokes in the wheels of a rapidly-moving carriage. It is gifted, also, with extraordinary powers of endurance, and a four or five-mile burst seems only a 'breather.' I had some of the best greyhound that could be procured at home. In pursuit of ostriches they were absolutely nowhere. My horses I prided myself on, but I should have deemed



STALKED BY TWO LIONS.

myself a fit subject for incarceration in a lunatic asylum should I have attempted to gallop one of these birds down.

"When in Damaraland I had in my employment a 'Bastard' named Swartz. He was a plucky fellow, an excellent hunter and up to the wiles and trickery of every description of game. A number of gemsbok had been seen about the wagons at break of day; so, after providing himself with a goodly piece of biltong and drinking a cup of coffee, he proceeded to the westward in the hope of adding some fresh meat to a reduced larder. About midday he returned, looking anything but the happy dandy who had so gayly departed a few hours before. Naturally I demanded an explanation—a reason for this sudden change; but a long time elapsed before I received an answer, and then his tongue was only loosened by my giving him a large 'tot' of 'Cape smoke.'

"In unusually good stalking ground he came across some gemsbok with a fine old cock ostrich in their society. Such a bird being worth £100, he resolved to do his level best to get within as short a range as possible of the prize. With the utmost care he wormed himself from one ant hill to another, till he all but considered that success was a certainty. Then he rested, to see that the powder was up in the nipple of his old muzzle-loader and to replace the old cap with a fresh one, but, while thus engaged, he chanced to look behind him, and to his horror discovered that while he had been stalking the ostrich he himself had been stalked by two lions, at the moment not 30 yards in his rear. In the excitement the gun went off, not aimed at anything, but probably the fusillade saved my henchman's life, for the lions, on hearing it, rose from their crouched position, stared at him for a few moments and then slowly retired. How he was followed so far without being attacked I can only account for by his being clothed and in such an unusual position that the lions mistook him for some unknown beast."

Strange Mixture of Terms.

Church news and gambling terms are curiously commingled in the following item, which appears in the religious column of a paper in Hutchinson, Kan.: "The Baptist church at Leoti will lose its pastor because another church has raised the ante. The Leoti people refuse to call the raise, and will stay out and draw another pastor."

VICTIM OF JEALOUSY.

Paris Husband Imprisoned in a Cage Because His Wife Loved Him All Too Fondly.

Three days and three nights locked in a cage simply because his wife loved him all too fondly, have proved too much for M. Ravelote, a citizen of Paris, and he has applied to the courts for an absolute divorce.

According to M. Ravelote's story, the jealous rage of his wife caused her to have built in a distant room of the house a steel cage strong enough to hold a desert lion. He knew nothing of this until one day the wife, the coachman and a powerful maid servant pounced upon him and dragged him to this distant cell. He was thrust into



CROCKERY BEGAN TO FLY.

it, the door slammed and locked, and he was held a prisoner there until the woman who so innocently had excited Mme. Ravelote's jealousy had left Paris.

Even then Ravelote says that he would not have been released had his brother not chanced to call and insist upon seeing him. In the long days and nights in which he was locked up the complainant says that he was left to sleep without covering, on the bare floors of the cage, while food was passed to him through the steel bars.

In his bill of complaint Ravelote admits the sincerity of his wife's affection. He insists only that its accompanying unreasonable jealousies are intolerable to him. The storm which led to the building of the steel cage, he says, burst three months ago. One morning he remarked at breakfast in the most casual way that a young woman whom he had known as a boy was coming to Paris. In an instant, he says, crockery began to fly all about the room, doing great damage and seriously endangering his life. Peace was made only after he had promised not to see the young woman while she was in the capital. The building of the cage and his imprisonment followed.

ROUTED BY SPARROWS.

Hundreds of Hungry Birds Have a Peck at an Aged New York Farmer's Bald Head.

According to a Middletown (N. Y.) correspondent, Theodore Davis, an aged farmer of Pitt's Hollow, is suffering from an onslaught of English sparrows, which inflicted numerous wounds about his head and face.

Davis was crossing a field some distance from his house when he encountered a large flock of the birds. They arose from the ground as the farmer made his appearance and circled about his head, obstructing his vision. Then the birds began pecking at Davis, and in his efforts to escape the flock his hat fell off, exposing his bald head, which also



HIS HAT FELL OFF.

proved a target for the ferocious little creatures.

With blood issuing from the wounds on his head and face the aged farmer finally succeeded in making his escape, and, nearly exhausted from his experience, slowly made his way home, where his wounds were dressed.

Davis says it appeared to him as though there were many hundreds of the birds about him, and they were proof against all his attacks. He believes hunger caused them to make the attack.

There Are Falls and Falls.

An American traveler visited the Niagara skating rink, in London, not long ago. He watched the performance for some time, and then he turned to his companions and host. "Wa'al," he said, "I've seen our Niagara, and now I've seen yours. Our show is very fine and imposing, but I guess your falls are more amusing."

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Sympathy Between Twins.

Twin brothers living in Anderson county, Kentucky, are said by the Harrodsburg Democrat to have married sisters, and to each have been born three children of the same sex, with the same birthdays. One felt a shock in his foot and said the other, who was ten miles away, had been hurt. In the evening the absent brother turned up with three mangled toes. The twins weigh the same to an ounce.

Treasures of the Aztecs.

Explorers in the neighborhood of Chama, Guatemala, have discovered treasures during their excavations in search of mines. Coins and jewels, decorating corpses buried centuries ago by the Aztecs and Montezumas, have been found. So far the valuables have amounted to over \$50,000. Workmen on the Chama plantations are wild, and have abandoned their usual work to hunt for buried treasures.

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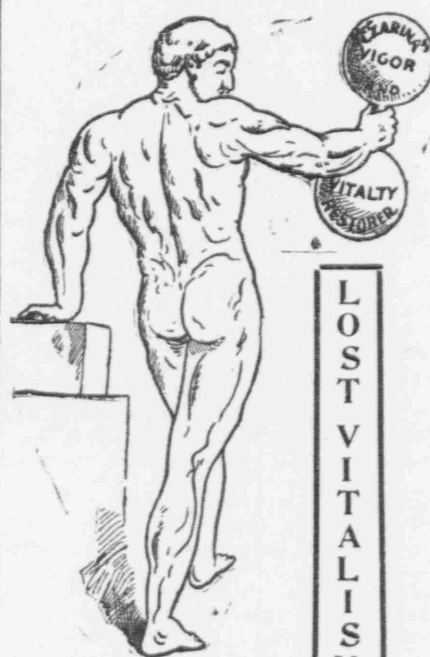
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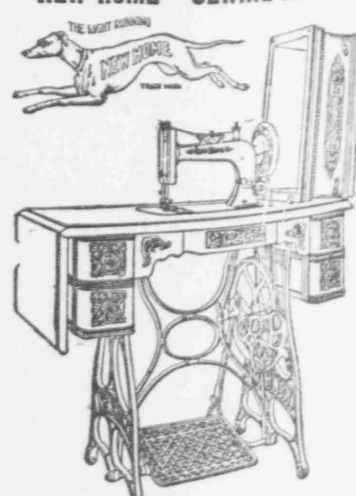
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